

RESULTS OF ONTARIO SURVEY
REGARDING PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN
WHO LACK FUNCTIONAL SPEECH

compiled by

ONTARIO CRIPPLED CHILDREN'S CENTRE
SYMBOL COMMUNICATION RESEARCH PROJECT

From information provided by

O.S.C.C. DISTRICT NURSES

From O.S.C.C. District Nurses Active Case File, May 1974

1. Number of Non-speaking Children.....359

2. Percentage of non-speaking children within population

	<u>Total Number of Children</u>	<u>Percentage of non-speaking children within the population</u>
Total Physically-handicapped population	11,876.....	3%
C.P. and Related groups population	4,012.....	8.7%

3. Degree of Physical involvement of non-speaking population:

	<u>No. of cases</u>	<u>Percentage of Total non-speaking population</u>
Mild.....	18	5.3%
Moderate.....	82.....	22.8%
Severe.....	258.....	71.8%
not known.....	1.....	-
Total	359	99.9%

4. Residence

Home.....	312.....	86.9%
Institution.....	47.....	13.
Total	359	99.9%

	No. of cases	Percentage of Total Non-speaking population
--	--------------	--

6. Pre-School Population (The Educational Placement of the reported non-speaking children under 5 years of age)

Total number of preschoolers - 93

a) Regular Nursery School.....	4.....	4.3
b) Treatment Centre Nursery School.....	17.....	18.3
c) Other Spec. Education Nursery School.....	6.....	6.5
d) Retarded Nursery School.....	32.....	34.4
e) Home.....	34.....	36.6
Total	93	100.1%

7. Primary Modes of Communication for the 359 children in the reported non-speaking population

a) Symbols (iii).....	28.....	7.8
b) Gestures (i).....	148.....	41.2
c) Sign Language.....	9.....	2.5
d) Pictures.....	12.....	3.3
e) Written Word Board.....	5.....	1.4
f) Spelling Board or Typing....	12.....	3.3
g) Partial Verbalization.....	10.....	2.8
h) Symbols with another method (ii)	29.....	8.0
i) Multi Systems - excluding ones using symbols as one aspect.....	34.....	9.5
j) None.....	63.....	17.5
k) Communication Mode not Known	9.....	2.5
	359	99.8%

- (i) Gesture included head movement, sounds, crying, hands, eyes, "noises".
(ii) Total symbols (a) & symbols with another method (h) 5715.8%
(iii) The number of symbol users herein indicated refers to children known to the district nurse to be using symbols-from records, May 1974. It does not include physically-handicapped children in large institutions for the mentally retarded. For more recent and direct data (July 1974) collected in conjunction with agreement to participate in a Formative Evaluation of the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre Symbol Communication Programme, funded by the Ministry of Education, the number of reported symbol users in Ontario totals 92.



Population Descriptive Statistics
(156 subjects as of May 31, 1975)

I AGE

Years	Freq	% of Pop
0-2	1	.64
3-4	5	3.21
5-5+	7	4.49
6-7	27	17.31
8-9	29	18.59
10-11	29	18.59
12-15	32	20.51
16-19	9	5.77
20-29	13	8.33
30+	2	1.28
NS	2	1.28
	156	100.00

II SEX

	Freq	% of Pop
M	87	55.77
F	69	44.23
	156	100.00

III RESIDENCE

	Freq	% of Pop
H	108	69.23
I	48	30.77
	156	100.00

IV DIAGNOSIS (categories overlap)

	Freq	% of Pop
Cerebral Palsy	141	90.38
Brain Injury	7	4.49
Other	13	8.33

V DATE OF INTRODUCTION

	Freq	% of Pop
Oct. '71-Aug. '72	11	7.05
Sept. '72-Aug. '73	20	12.82
Sept. '73-Aug. '74	65	41.67
Sept. '74-Nov. '74	39	25.00
Dec. '74-Jan. '75	17	10.90
Feb. '75	3	1.92
NS	1	.64
	156	100.00



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2023 with funding from
University of Toronto

https://archive.org/details/OTUED_8-2-4-11-7

VI GRADE/LEVEL AT INTRODUCTION

	Freq	% of Pop
Pre-Kindergarten	25	16.03
Kindergarten	25	16.03
Primary	27	17.31
Grade/Level 1	17	10.90
2	4	2.56
3	6	3.85
4	1	.64
5	2	1.28
Advanced Elementary	1	.64
Opport.cl.for ed.ret.	4	2.56
TMR	24	15.38
NA(not applicable)	3	1.92
NS & Not known	12	7.69
No School	5	3.21
	156	99.99

VII EDUCATIONAL PLACEMENT (categories overlap)

	Freq	% of Pop
Academic	88	56.41
Opport. class	23	14.74
Ret.setting for TR	36	23.08
Tutor/Home	4	2.56
No School	7	4.49
Other	3	1.92
NS	1	.64
	156	100.00

VIII TESTED INTELLIGENCE LEVEL

	Freq	% of Pop
Very Superior	0	.00
Superior	0	.00
High Aver./Br.Norm.	4	2.56
Average	17	10.90
Low Aver./Dull Norm.	11	7.05
Borderline Ret.	18	11.54
Mildly Ret./Educ.	35	22.44
Moder.Ret./Train.	26	16.67
Severely Ret.	19	12.18
NS	19	12.18
NA	7	4.49
	156	100.00

IX OBSERVED INTELLIGENCE LEVEL

	Freq	% of Pop
Very Superior.	0	.00
Superior	1	.64
High Average	8	5.13
Average	34	21.79
Low Average	19	12.18
Borderline Ret.	26	16.67
Mildly Ret.	29	18.59
Moder. Ret.	30	19.23
Severely Ret.	6	3.85
NS	3	1.92
	156	100.00

X APPARENT INTELLIGENCE LEVEL

	Freq	% of Pop
Observed level is greater than Tested level	63	40.38
Observed level is less than Tested level	12	7.69
No Difference	56	35.90
Not sufficient information	25	16.03
	156	100.00

INFORMATION FROM INTERVIEWS AND QUESTIONNAIRES

FOR DECEMBER 1975

Reasons given for why some children should not have been started on a symbol program.

INTERVIEW #3 - QUESTIONNAIRE DECEMBER 1975

1. Lack of interest in communicating
2. Unable to understand process of communicating through an alternative medium
3. Not ready developmentally - poorly assessed
4. Ability to communicate with speech equal to ability to communicate with symbols. Due to physical limitations child could not gain access to large enough number
5. Improved speech - symbols no longer needed
6. Lack of family support and co-operation
7. Behaviour problem - too disturbed

Too low mentally

Too many physical problems

Above readiness level

Only child in the setting

Appearance of dyslexic symptoms

Deteriorating vision

Deaf child learning reading, typing, math, and total

communication - too much for that particular child to handle

